ful being, who comes from the cold regions of Russia to see whether the children have behaved well, can say their prayers, and have learned well at school. He is clad in furs, chains clank about him as he walks, and his entire face is covered with a black and bristly beard. In his right hand the carries a rod for the terror of evil boys. After the ter-things are put away, the family sit in si-lent expectation of the arrival of Ruprecht. The little children con over the prayers they have learned, in order to repeat to him when he comes,

and the older ones reflect on their conduct for some weeks past; for, if they have been bad, Ruprecht is sure to know it, and tell them about At last he comes! His heavy tramp and the clank of his chain are heard on the stairs. He enters, and questions the children about their learning at school, their behaviour, their prayers; commends the good, and threatens the bad with his rod. He ends by distributing nuts, fruit, and cakes, from a bag which is suspended at his neck, and by telling them that the Christ-Child will

soon be here with the presents for good children.

The departure of Ruprecht is the signal for the most uproarious glee among the youngsters, and for the cracking of nuts and munching of apples. Sometimes, the Christ-Child comes the same night, sometimes not before the next morning, an hour or two before daylight. The hour has been told them by Ruprecht. As it approaches, the children are gathered in the dark hall before the door of the mysterious chamber to watch for the descent of the welcome visiter, and hear the rustling and see the radiance of his white wings. This last is difficult, for his flight is very rapid, and the children are apt to fancy they have done it, when they have only been dazzled by the glare of light from the chamber, as the door is suddenly thrown open, and reveals a scene of fairy beauty and brilliancy. The Christmas tree, with its tapering branches hung with lights reflected from and silver fruit, and relieved by the golden and silver fruit, and reneved by dark green of the foliage, rises in the centre. An angel, suspended from one of the branches by an invisible thread, seems to announce something—in fact, the birth of Christ, to the shepherds, who are tending their flocks beneath. Birds of gaudy plumage fly among the branches. At either side are tables richly tapestried, covered with showy presents and with lights. The presents for each one are separate from the others, and marked with his name, for the bringer has no confusion in what he does. The mirrors and richest furniture of the family are so arranged as to add to the scenic effect. This is the supreme and joyous moment for the children. The discovery of the presents, the laughter, the tears of delight, the bursts of affection from these young

All is happy within. The joyous urchins do not see the anxious face of the ragged little boy who stands shivering in the street to look in on the splendors, which alas! he is forbidden to ap-Some years ago, a little boy was frozen o death, as he crowded in a side alley, to peep in on the Christmas tree of a palace. As he gazed, his limbs stiffened with the cold, his earthly vision was glazed over, but his mental was purified, and he saw a Christmas tree, all made of bright stars, and which seemed to extend from heaven, over the place where he say, while the Christ-Child stood at the top, and beckened him upward, through the avenue of gibes. nind angels bore him upward, and he passed his Chrismas Eve in Paradise. The deserted body was found next morning, the little hands clasped, as if in an ecstasy of pleasure, and the face turned upward,

hearts, are indescribable.

The Christmas tree of the poor is frequently nothing but a sprig of the fir, and the presents the cheapest toys, or necessary articles of cloth-ing, reserved to be given at this season. A case occurred last year, in Berlin, of a child's faith procuring him something more costly. He had set his heart on having a trumpet and some wood-en soldiers for himself, and a warm cloak for his vidowed mother, who suffered from the cold. He had often fervently prayed the Christ-Child to send these things; but his mother, who was perplexed by his extravagant desires, which she was unable to gratify, told him his prayers would do The boy's faith was not shaken, but to make assurance doubly sure, he wrote a letter to the Christ-Child, setting forth his wants, and more particularly his mother's. This he put into st office, not doubting of its speedy delivery. On the long-looked-for evening he put up his little sprig of fir, placed near it his mother's black lamp, and, having first kneeled down before it, and said over his petition, sat down in a corner, and, leaning his head on his hands, watched for the glittering of the Christ-Child's wings. He had not waited long before the door was pushed open, and a man, whose face was con ce-led, entered, with a basket on his arm This he placed on the table, and disappeared contained the toys and cloak What a happy moment for the mother and i! The Christ-Child had sent the presents, but through human agency. The strange address of the letter had caused the post office clerks to open it. They had been touched by the simple faith of the child, and raised a contribution, to purchase for him what he so ardently

## FROM EUROPE.

The steamer Europa arrived at Halifax on Friday evening. She sailed from Liverpool on the 26th January, and brings accounts a fortnight la-ter than before received. The Telegraph report loes not show that she brings any political news of interest. The price of cotton is still advancing, and the

sales of the week ending the 25th were 83,000 bales, of which the trade took 40,000. Best Western Canal flour 23s. 6d. a 24s.; Philadelphia and Baltimore 25s, a 25s, 6d; new Ohio 24s. a 25s. 6d.; Indian Corn, white, 31s. a 31s. 6d.;

vellow, 29s, a 29s, 3d.; mixed, 28s, 6d, a 29s.

A melancholy part of the news is the loss of the fine packet ship Hottinguer, together with Captain Bursley and twelve of the crew. She ed from Liverpool for New York on the 10th of January, with nearly three hundred cabin and steerage passengers, together with the captain and crew, of thirty men and boys, and had a very full freight of various descriptions of goods. She had only passed as far as Blackwater Bank, which is on the coast of Wexford, when she struck on one of those dangerous ledges of rock which lie concealed in that quarter.
It was with extreme difficulty and peril that

the passengers and seamen were passed into the boats, the sea breaking with dreadful violence on

The boats happily succeeded in reaching the shore, although with extreme difficulty, from the roughness of the sea and the great distance (seven miles or more) from the bank to the land.

France—Business progresses slowly in the Legislative Assembly. The Budget is still in committee. The committee had been for some time occupied with M. Falloux's education bill. The latest Parisian advices represent Victor Hugo as having made a speech against it, which was applauded with phrensy by the Mountain. The debate adjourned amid great excitement.

The war against the Press continues. The Re-

forme has been suspended, and La Presse seized. The weather throughout France, especially in the south, has been more rigorous than for many

years.

The Buenos Ayres expedition is said to be

PRUSSIA.—The threatened dissolution of the Cabinet appears to have been avoided by some The King is now disposed to take the oath of the Constitution.

The Erfurt Parliament is declared to be an imperious political necessity for Prussia. In Wur-temberg there seems to be a change of opinion favorable to Russian influence.

The Hanoverian Chamber refuses to recognise

the Central Commission of Austria and Prussia. A Constitution is recommended for Germany. Austria is occupied with the numberless constitutions for her Provinces. The Provincial Diets are to be convoked in October, and that of the

Empire will assemble in 1851.
ROME.—It is said that want of money prevents the Pope from returning to his Capital, and that France has offered funds to his Holiness. The Archbishop of Bourges is said to be the bearer this offer, made in the name of the French

aristocracy.
Saedinia.—The Sardinian Chamber of Deputies have approved the treaty of peace concluded at Milan between the Piedmontese and the Aus-trians. It is expected the Senate will also approve it at Berlin. Negotiations for the treaty of peace at Denmark have been renewed. The Russians having resumed diplomatic rela-

tions with the Porte, it is expected that the Austrians will not be slow to follow.

## FOREIGN MARKETS.

LIVERPOOL, January 26. Bacon - Holders of new do not appear inclined to give way in prices, and the stock having become very much reduced, an advance of 1s per cwt. has been obtained for low qualities. Bef.—The sales are 400 to 500 tierces. Ordinary old brought 50s, good brands of new 75s. a

Park.-Old prime mess is in demand for export. Good new realized 50s. a 55s., very fine 56s. a 58s. Shoulders — ordinary are selling at 16s. a 17s.; good at 18r. a 19z. 6d.; choice of fine qualities are n fair demand

fair demand.

Lard.—The transactions have again been exensive, the sales for the last 14 days being fully 500 tons, at an advance of 1s. per cwt., 35s. now the lowest quotation for ordinary refining quali-

CONGRESS. THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS-FIRST SESSION.

FERRUARY 5TH, 6TH, and 7TH, 1850.

SENATE. The time of the Senate on the 5th and 6th was occupied chiefly with Mr. Clay's speech on his Slavery resolutions.

On the 5th, during the morning hour, Mr. Hale withdrew his amendment to the resolution of General Cass respecting diplomatic intercourse with Austria, to allow Mr. Foote to submit two amendments, which General Cass accepted-one providing for a grant of land to the Hungarian efugees, the other proposing that the President hould intercede with the Government of Turkey for the liberation of Kossuth. On the 6th, numerous petitions were presented

for the reduction of postage.

Mr. Mangum took occasion to present the proseedings of a meeting at Wilmington, N. C., denouncing the fanaticism of the North, proposing measures for the representation of that State in the Nashville Convention, and threatening a dissolution of the Union in a certain contingency.

Mr. Mangum seconded the views presented in the report, and denounced all projects of compromise. He regarded the North as the aggressor continually, and announced that North Carolina was prepared to resist, at all hazards and to the last extremity. He would abide the decision of his countrymen, and put his old frame upon the altar in the common cause.

[Mr. Mangum, hitherto regarded as a moderate man, with some expectations of a Whig nomination for the Vice Presidency, was exceedingly violent on this occasion-as ultra as South Carolina and Mississippi members. He had been an attententive listener a few days before to the extravagant speech of Mr. Clingman, who, having failed, by the aid of his new allies, the Democrats, to oust Mr. Badger from the Senate, is suspected of a design to secure, if possible, the place of Mr-Mangum; who, naturally anxious to retain his comfortable seat, is not willing to have it thought that he is a whit behind Mr. Clingman in his support of the extremest pretensions of the South ]

Mr. Hale. Mr. President, I object to the reception of the paper. I suppose in that case the nestion must first be taken on its reception.

The Vice President. The reception of the paper is objected to. The question is on its re-Mr. Hale. I wish to say a word or two on this motion. When I first took my seat in the Senate, and was charged by my constituents with the presentation of a petition asking any action or expressing any sentiments favorable to any action n the subject of slavery in the District of Co lumbia, or anywhere else, objection was made to its reception, and a motion made to lay the question on the table, which motion prevailed. And, sir, one of the first individuals who expressed his opinion as to the course of proceeding in present-ing petitions or memorials of that character was the Senator from North Carolina, who has just now taken his seat. He took occasion, sir, upon the presentation of papers of that character by myself, to say that up to that time so judicious had been the course of the Senste-adopted, I think he said, after consultation among the leading men on both sides of the chamber—that they had come to an understanding that when any petition or memorial of that character, looking to the action of the Government in any way in relation to the subject of slavery, was presented, the question of reception should be considered as raised at once, and a motion made to lay it on the table, and thus they got on quietly, peaceably, and harmoniously. And he said, too, that he regretted that there had been such a revolution in any remote State of this Union as, by accident, had thrown such a firebrand as myself into this Senate. Well, sir, I heard it all, and submitted to it and such has been the course of the Senate. Thus far, every paper looking in the remotest degree to any action of the Government, or presenting here any opinions of individuals adverse to the institution of slavery, has, the question of reception being raised, been laid on the table. Now, sir, if such is the rule to be applied to us north of Mason and Divon's line: if it is improper, unconstitutional, and reprehensible, to bring petitions and memorials here from the North country expressing opinions unfavorable to the institution of slavery, I ask if it is not equally proper that petitions and memorials coming from south of that line, and tooking to a different action on the subject, should receive the same fate? I am not mistaken about the character of these resolutions, although they are not so definite in their terms as they are when appended to the speech of the honorable Senator in explanation of them. He says they all look to

and refer to the agitating questions which now divide this country. They declare, sir, that the good State of North Carolina, which has had so high a eurogium passed upon her, and from which North State has at last waked up to the aggressions of the North. Sir, I wish that the intelligence of North Carolina had given its attention to the inquiry, and pointed out what are those aggressions. I wish, if it could, that it had laid its finger on a single word letter, or line, that was spoken or written at the North, that contemplated any aggressive action by this Government on this institution. The honorable Senator seemed to say, and he did say most distinctly, that the South its position only occupied the defensive. I confess, sir, I am not so well versed in the dictionaries as are some gentlemen, but if the course of the North on this subject is aggressive, while that

of the South is defensive merely, I confess I am poorly skilled indeed in this chapter of defini-tions. He says that all they ask at the South is "hands off." That is all we want at the North, sir, "hands off." Talk about our being aggressive! The history of this Government will show that the course of the North, from the first institution of the Government, from the first adoption f the Constitution down to the present time, has

een concession, and concession, until now our very vomen and children reproach us with the pusillanimity which permits our rights to be trampled upon here by the action of this Government. We have conceded, and conceded, and yielded, until nothing is left to yield ; and now we are told in substance, that if we do not come foward and take hold with our own hands, and help in extendding this institution of slavery—that if we do not identify ourselves, soul and body, in all the responsibility belonging to its existence, perpetuity, and eternity, we are aggressive, and that the Union is to be dissolved.

I raise the question of reception, and to move to ay that question on the table, and I shall vote against it. I raise it merely that the Senate may have an opportunity of administering the same justice to the South that we of the North have and to take, whether we would or not. I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion.

Mr. Mangum. Will the Senator withdraw the

notion to lay on the table for a moment? Mr. Hale assented. Mr. Hale assented.
Mr. Mangum. I have but one remark to make.
As to all this affair of concession on the part of
the North, the merest schoolboy in our history
knows that there is very little in it. The difference between this case and those ref rred to by the Senator, where the question of reception is raised and that motion is laid on the table, is just his, and it will be seen that they present two inct questions. These memorials from the North invoke action on the part of Congress; these resolutions invoke no action whatever. That is the believe Congress has no right to do under the

distinction. Those from the North ask for an interposition of Congressiona' action to do-what? What nearly one-half of this Union, if not more, These resolutions are designed as mere notification, and ask no action on the part of Congress. Mr. Hale. I renew the motion to lay the ques-

ion of reception on the table. The yeas and nays were ordered, and the Sente refused to lay the question of reception on the

table by the following yote:
Yeas—Messrs. Bradbury and Douglas—2.
Nays—Messrs. Atchison, Badger, Baldwin,
Bell, Berrien, Borland, Bright, Cass, Chase, Clarke, Clay, Clemens, Cooper, Corwin, Davis of Mass chusetts, Davis of Mississippi, Dawson, Mass chusetts, Davis of Mississippi, Dawson, Dickinson, Dodge of Iowa Dodge of Wisconsin, Feich, Foote, Greene, Ha'e, Hamlin, Houston, Hunter, Jones, King, Mangum, Mason, Miller, Morton, Norris, Pearce, Phelips, Pratt, Rusk, Sebastian, Seward, Smith, Soule, Spruance, Turney, Upham, Wales, Walker, and Whitcomb—48.

The resolutions were then received, laid on the

table, and the motion to print them referred to the Committee on Printing. On the 7th, the morning hour was occupied in the presentation of petitions. Some of the proceedings were quite dramatic, as will be seen by the following report, which we copy from the National Intelligencer :

MEMORIALS FOR THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY. Mr. Hale. I have received and been requested Mr. Fiale. I have received and been requested to present to the Senate the memorial of an association of Friends for promoting the abolition of slavery and improving the condition of the free people of color, asking Congress to do what they may to prevent the increase of slavery, by the non-admission of any new States into the Union, or the erection of any new Territorial Govern-

ments which do not contain organic laws expressly prohibiting the continuance or establishment of slavery within their limits. I move that it be eferred to the Committee on Territories. The Vice President. Does the memorial come

within the rule? Does it ask for any action by Congress on the subject of slavery? Mr. Hale. I believe it does not. It simply re nonstrates against the admission of any new slave

States or Territorial Governments. Mr. King. Who is it from? Is it from ne groes?

Mr. Hale. I believe the rule does not require me to state the complexion of those from whom it omes. It is from an association of Friends in Pennsylvania. I do not know that they are people of color. The memorial states nothing about

their complexion.

The Vice President. It is moved that the petition be received and referred to the Committee on Mr. Hale. I have also a petition from citizens

Mr. Clemens. I object to the reception of the Mr. Hale. I ask if it is in time.

The Vice President. The Chair is of opinion that it is in time; the question had not been ta-Mr. Hale. I ask then for the yeas and nays on

that question.

Mr. King. I ask that the petition be read. The Secretary read it as follows

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America: The Association of Friends for premoting the bolition of slavery and improving the condition of the free people of color respectfully represents: That the members of the Society of Friends have long maintained the principle that "all men are created equal, that all should have equal

rights and privileges guarantied to them as citizens of a common country."

In view of this, they have been led to look at the increased extent of our domain, and of the necessity of maintaining over its wide surface such equal laws as shall render happiness and security to all. The system of slavery, which has so long burdened and desolated the Southern portion of our land, is viewed by us all with deep concern, and the fear presses upon us that in the admission of new States into the Union, and the erection of New Territories, this terrible evil may be spread and perpetuated, thus adding blight to blight, with its vast addition of distress, of sorrow, and

We, however, ask you, possessing, as you do the legislative power, to prevent the increase of this dreadful evil, by the non-admission of new States into the Union or the erection of new Territories whose Constitutions or organic laws do not contain express prohibitions to the establish ment or the continuance of slavery within their

Signed, on behalf of the aforesaid Association, at their monthly meeting, held in Philadelphia on the seventh day of the 11th month, 1849.

Lydia Gullingham, Clerks. The Vice President. The question now is or

the reception of this petition Mr. King. I me was ing that motion on the Mr. Hale. Let us have the yeas and nays, sir

The yeas and nays were ordered, and, being taken, resulted as follows: Yeas-Messre. Atchison, Bell, Borland, Bradbury, Bright, Cass, Clemens, Davis of Mississippi, Dawson, Dickinson, Douglas, Downs, Foote, Houston, Honter, King, Mangum, Morten, Pearce, Pratt, Rusk, Sebastian, Soule, Sturgeon, Tur-

Nays-Messrs. Baldwin, Chase, Clarke, Clay. Cooper, Corwin, Davis of Massachusetts, Dodge of Iowa, Dodge of Wisconsin, Felch, Greene, Hale, Miller, Norris, Seward, Smith, Spruance, Underwood, Upham, Wales, Walker-So the motion to receive was laid upon the

Mr. Hale. I have also received a petition, numer. onsly signed, from Collins Centre, in the State of New York. They ask the attention of Congress to several facts which they specify, among which they say that two individuals, of the names of Drayton and Sayre, are imprisoned in the District of Columbia, on the false assumption that there is a land legalizing slavery in the District of Columbia. The remedy which they propose is the impeachment of the judges concerned in the

The second evil of which they complain is the action of the Secretary of State in refusing a passport to Mr. Hamilton, a colored person. trict of Columbia imprisons persons for no crime but that of complexion; and that if they were of

different complexion, they would go unmolested. The fourth evil is, that there are a great man persons in the District who are actually delusion in the country that Congress has the power to legalize slavery, they pray that Con-gress will hasten to dispel such delusion, by declaring that they have no such power, and that they will abolish slavery in the District. I have no doubt this comes within the rule. The Vice President. The question is on the re

eption of the petition.

Mr. Mangum. I move to lay that question on The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Hale. I have received also, and been re quested to present to the Senate, a petition from a number of ladies of Germantown, Philadelphia county, Pennsylvania; and I wish, in order that the Senate may understand the character of the petition, to read the commencement. They ad-dress us as "Dear Friends," and after setting forth the prayer which they put in, they say "Trusting that you will adopt measures for the furtherance of these objects, we bid you an affectionate farewell." [Laughter]

The petition press that Congress will prevent the introduction or slavery into the Territories, and also will abolish it in the District of Co-The Vice President. The question will be or

the reception of the petition. Mr. Mangum. I move to lay that question on the table. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Hale. I have also received a petition from various citizens of the county of Philadelphia, praying that Congross will prohibit the internal slave trade so extensively carried on between the The Vice President. The Chair is not advised

whether this petition come within the rule. I believe it does. Mr. Hale. On motion, the question of reception was laid Mr. Hale. I have another petition from the

the State of Pennsylvania, and in presenting it, wish to make a single observation. The Chair remarked that he did not know that the memorial ust presented came within the rule. I believe there is no rule.

The Vice President. The usage. Mr. Hale. The usage is to receive everything from the South, and reject everything from the North, without asking what the nature of it is. This is a petition from citizens of the State of Pennsylvania, requesting Congress to take measures for the abolition of slavery within this Dis-trict. I believe that comes within the rule.

On motion, the question of reception was laid on the table. Mr. Hale. I have also two other petitions from Philadelphia, numerously signed, praying for the same object.

Mr. Mangum. I move to lay the question of reception on the table The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Hale. I have also received a petition from

inhabitants of Pennsylvania and Delaware, stating that they believe that the Federal Constitu-Divine law and makes war upon human rights, and is inconsistent with republican principles and that the attempt to unite slavery and free dom in one body politic has already brought up-on the country great and manifold evils, and has fully proved that no such union can exist but by the sacrifice of freedom to the supremacy of sla-

They respectfully ask Congress to propose without delay some plan for the immediate and peaceful dissolution of the American Union. I trust, as the Senate decided yesterday that it was in order to receive resolutions threatening to do the same thing forcibly, they will at least re-

ceive a petition asking them to do it peaceably.

The Vice President. The question will be on the reception of this petition.

The question was put, and the Vice President was about to state the result, when a division was called for in several parts of the Chamber. Mr. Hale. I call for the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered. Mr. Underwood explained his views upon the right of petition. There were two limitations upon it-one was, the want of power in the body addressed to grant the prayer of the petitioners the other was, the exemption of the petitioners from the operation of the law which they asked to be passed.

Mr. Douglas rose to define his position on the question, but was interrupted by the announcement of the House resolutions on the occasion of the death of Mr. Newman. Mr. Hunter rose and offered the customary

therefore the Senate does not deem it an occasion | Whether the Senate is or is not punished by me for such action as is proper when a death occurs here during the session of Congress.

He supported his smendment with res which seemed to be generally well received by the Senate, but, lest it might seem invidious in this case, he withdrew his amendment.

The Senate then adjourned. The absurd custom which Mr. Clay opposed.

will, after this, be abandoned, we should think ] On the 8th, the subject of the petition for dissolution again came up, and Mr. Douglas proceeded to define his position. He had always voted for the most summary disposition of such petitions, believing their tendency was to aggravate excitement on the slavery question, and weaken the bonds of the Union. As to this petition for dissolution, he would vote for its rejection. But, he was for a uniform rule on the subject of petitions touching slavery, let them come from what quarter they might-North or South. He had voted to lay the question of the reception of the proceedings of the meeting presented by Mr. Mangum on the table, but he was surprised that Southern Senators had refused to apply in that case the rule they had so rigidly enforced in reference to such matters coming from the North.

Mr. Sturgeon denounced the petition as spurious, "the work of some violent, black-hearted abolitionist.

Mr. Dawson. Does the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. Hale] recognise the power of Congress to dissolve this Union, either peaceably or forcibly; and if it is desirable to lay the found ation for the commencement of such a project, does he feel himself, as a patriot, as a Senator representing a sovereign State, called on to pre that tremendous question in this body? believe Congress has that power, then let that petition be received; or if he should be instructed by his constituents to make the effort, let it then be received. Why are we constantly irritated here by the presentation of petitions of this kind, upon which he knows there can be no action or the part of Congress? Is it for the purpose of rritating one portion of the Union against an other, or is it to gratify the feelings of those who are said to be fanatical on this subject? If it be neither of these motives, why disturb the peace and harmony of this Union, and interrupt the legitimate business of this body, by the presenta-tion of such petitions? Is it to gratify a personal feeling, or what object is there in it?

The question about the Union is one that I am not now going to discuss. If gentlemen have inward feelings driving them into a desire to dis-solve this Union, they had better not express them here. If they do, let it be done on an occasion when the members of this body can constitu-

tionally express an opinion.

Mr. Hale. Mr. President, I would have been gratified if a little of this admonition had been called forth on some other occasion, "I have heard this Union not only threatened, but its dissolution announced. I sat yesterday and heard the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. Mangum] say, in reference to a course of legislation which he well knew had been adopted by Congress within the last two years, that if it was persisted in, he and others had placed themselves in a position of resistance to it, in which they would defend them-selves at every hazard. I have heard it again and again declared by Senators coming from another ection of the Union, that if Congress should adopt certain measures, they would not submit but would resist them at every hazard. Such declarations called forth no rebuke. The Senstor from Georgia [Mr. Dawson] sat in his seat as quietly as I did; but now some people who do not hold exactly to that mode of doing business, who do not come here threatening and denouncing the Union, believing that Senators are in carnest in their threats, ask us to do it peacenbly, as they are non-resistant; and all this indig-nation is worked up and poured out on my head The Senate is called upon to put me down, and an appeal is made to know why the Senator dared to present such a petition. Sir, I dare walk up to the line of my constitutional duty, as I under stand it. I dare do everything that I believe to be constitutional, and the Senate cannot put me down until they resolve to put down the c

resent here.
In regard to this petition, I see nothing irritating or insulting in it. We have to hear every ferent language from this petition. It has nothing to do with any action in reference to slavery it asks that Congress shall propose immediate measures for the peaceable dissolution of the Union. And let me say, that if the argument set forth by the Senator from Georgia [Mr. Dawson] to-day, and by the Senator from Kentucky | Mr. Underwood] yesterday, is to be the rule by which the good people of the United States are to be measured, then the right of petition is not worth anything, for it amounts to nothing. These Sen-ators put it on the ground that I have no right to present a petition here for action upon a subject upon which I believed Congress had no power to act. That is not my business—not at all. It is for the people to judge as to what they shall pe-tition for, and when the time comes for action, then I have the right to judge as to what is the power of Congress to grant their prayer. The cople who petition have the right to judge also whether Congress has a right to act, and then, when the subject is before us, we have the right

tional privileges of the State which I in part rep-

to judge and decide on the propriety and power of Congress to act. Mr. Davis of Massachusetts spoke with sor warmth against the reception of the petition. It called upon them to destroy what they were

sworn to support. Mr. Foote expressed his "cordial acquiescence in the patriotic sentiments" of the Senator from Massachusetts. He then spoke of the course of Mr. Hale, attributing it to the merciless castigation he had recently received from a Disunion Convention in the city of Boston, in which Mr. Garrison and Abby Kelley figured.

But that I condole so profoundly with the hon orable Senator from New Hampshire, on account of the compulsion to which he is from time to time subjected, and the necessity imposed upon him of doing many things here which I must hope are not entirely agreeable to his own taste, in or-der to keep up his popularity and influence at home—that is to say, among the factionists whose special agent in this body he undeniably is—I should be induced to apply to him and his conduct on the present occasion the harshest language and crimination. I should be even induced to g ther, and to impose upon him the severest penalties to which a member of this body can be subjected. One thing is certain: it was only a few years ago that John Quincy Adams himself was very nearly being expelled from the House of Representatives for undertaking to present in that body such a petition as that now before us. Expelled he would certainly have been, but for the merciful postponement of action upon the mo-tion for expulsion, which was accorded to his age and former services, and the intermediate rendi-tion of semi-satisfactory apologies in one form or another. I repeat, that but for the commiseration which I feel for the honorable Senator of New Hampshire, constrained, as he evidently considers imself to be, to play the wretched part which he is now playing as the representative and agent of factionists and traitors, I should be not only induced to censure him harshly, but I should even be in favor of enforcing against him the heaviest penalties for factional misconduct. Perhaps I might even be willing to submit such a motion for expulsion myself. As it is, I will not do it. I am villing to let the Senator from New Hampshire do pretty much as he pleases in relation to this whole subject of slavery. I believe him to be really quite innocuous at this time; I feel certain that his voice here, if it ever had any potentiality, has lost it all, and that, were he to talk here forever in favor of the abolition of slavery, he would no be able to alter the opinions or modify the action of a single intelligent human being, either in this body or out of it. I shall offer no motion for expul-sion, and I feel half induced even to take back my former threat of hanging him. Yes, sir, I will take it back; and I do accordingly declare that I have not the least idea of ever hanging the honorable gentleman, however offensive his conduct in fu-ture may be. I hope that this formal declaration may be effectual to dispel all apprehensions here tofore entertained on that point.

Mr. Hale. I desire to say to the Senator who threatens me with the resolution of expul-

Mr. Foote. Oh, no, I have expressly said I would not do it. " De minimis non curat lex. Mr. Hale. That means, I suppose, the law loesn't care for small fish. [Laughter.] I have doesn't care for small fish. [Laughter.] I have but a word to say. The Senator thinks the speech I made this morning to have been the result of some castigation I have received from newspapers. On the same principle, then, it is very probable that the speeches we get from him are to be attributed to the castigations he has received from the same sources. If so, I appeal to all the newspapers and letter-writers in the country, in the name of the Senate, and of humanity itself, not to castigate the Senator from Mississippi any more for in doing so they punish the Senate and

in the w y suggested, it is at least certain that do endeavor to inflict more or less of punishment upon certain offenders in this body, in behalf of, whom it is not at all surprising that the gentle-man from New Humpshire should feel a special sympathy. I am willing that the Senate and the ntry shall determine whether the honorable gentleman or myself is most censurable upon the very delicate point referred to. As to my being instigated to address this body so frequently in the manner alluded to, I am gind to have it in my power to assure the nonorable gentleman that the newspapers in my vicinage, and indeed those of seem not at all hostile to me. If I am censured by them at all, I am not myself aware of it, and, so far as I am informed on the subject, my public course stands approved, with very slight exceptions, indeed, throughout the Southern portion the Confederacy. I do not very well know what is said of me elsewhere, nor do I very much care. It is certain that I have at no time complained of editorial denunciations, and even the letter-writing tribe have seldom irritated my sensibilities. If I speak oftener than there is need of my doing, it is perhaps more or less attributed to the cace thes loquendi. For the comfort of the honorable Senator and his allies here, I could almost wish that I could become dumb; I cannot doubt that they would greatly rejoice at being relieved from that dread of punishment which sits now heavily upon their sensibilities. When causes of offence ome less numerous, I hope to be spared the necessity of speaking so often. When this happy state of things shall be brought about, I cannot

even divine. Mr. Chase obtained the floor, but yielded it for the purpose of taking up the special order of the day, being the resolutions of General Houston on the Slavery Question.

General Houston spoke for above two hours, expressing his devotion to the Union, and his dissent from all movements looking to Disunion.

Mr. Foote submitted a series of resolutions which he intended to offer as an amendment to those introduced by Mr. Clay.

They assert the full and exclusive power of Congress to admit new States into the Union, or refuse them admission, at its own discretion; that Congress has no power to decide the legal question whether slavery does or does not exist in the Territories; that no reliable information had been received authorizing any opinion as to the probability or improbability of slavery obtaining a foothold in the Territories; that Territorial Governments ought to be framed without any restriction as to slavery; that California ought not to be admitted with a Territorial surface extending below 360 30', ought not to be admitted at all, if the Chief Executive can be proved to have used any unconstitutional or coercive action in promoting the formation of a State Constitution therein, and ought not in any case to be admitted, unless provision at the same view be made for the erection of a new slave State within the boundsries of Texas; that the western boundary of Texas is already fixed on the Rio del Norte; that Congress cannot properly or justly legislate for the abolition of slavery within the District of Columbia, unless with the consent of all the slaveholding States; that it is inexpedient to legislate at present in regard to the slave trade in the District; that Congress cannot touch the inter-State slave trade; that more effectual provision ought to be made for the recapture of fugitive slaves. The Senate soon after adjourned over till

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1850.

Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Resolutions on motion of Mr. Thurston were adopted, instructing the Committee on Post Roads to inquire into the expediency of establishing certain mail routes in Oregon Territory.

The rules were suspended to allow the States and Territories not heretofore called upon for resolutions, to be now called upon.

Mr. Buel introduced a bill to grant land to the Hungarian refugees, which was read twice and he did vote, the hateful characteristics which he referred to the Committee on the Public Lands. Mr. Kaufman offered resolutions denying the power of Congress to curtail the boundaries of a State, and the power of the Supreme Court to

settle controversies between States and Territories It lies over Resolutions introduced by Mr. Thurston, respecting the possessory rights of the Hudson Bay coption of the petition from North Carolina. Company, &c., were referred to the Committee am sorry for this; but he, too, has his commenda on the Judiciary. Several other resolutions relating to the interests of Oregon Territory, introduced by the same delegate, were referred to ap-

propriate committees. The joint resolution of the Senate for the purchase of the manuscript copy of Washington's Farewell Address was taken up. A motion to amend by limiting the sum to be expended to \$1,000 was voted down.

Mr. loge was opposed to the resolution. The spirit of that address was no longer the spirit of the nation. Mr. Stephens warmly advocated it, for the very

cason that a sectional spirit had crept in among

us. He admonished the North that by reading that address, they might be led to lay aside their aggressive designs on the South. The resolution was at last adopted, 103 to 45. The House then resumed the joint resolution in relation to limiting the expenses of collecting

the revenue, and Mr. Morton of Virginia made an ultra pro-slavery speech of an hour. The House soon after adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1850. After the usual morning business, the House on motion of Mr. Bayly, resolved to close all de bate on the joint resolution from the Senate concerning the revenue, to-morrow at 2 o'clock, and then resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on said resolution.

A debate took place, in which Messrs. Vinton Jones, Winthrop, and Toombs, participated; the Committee then rose, and The House adjourned.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1850.

The House in Committee of the Whole resumed the consideration of the subject. At 2 o'clock the debate closed, and, after a speech from Mr. Bayly, the Committee proceeded to vote on various amendments, adopting none but the following, offered by Mr. Vinton: "Strike out all of the first section after the en

acting clause, and insert:
"That the operation of so much of the act approved March 3, 1849, entitled 'An act requiring ill moneys receivable from customs and all other sources to be paid immediately into the Tressury. without abatement or reduction, and for other purposes,' as provides that the expenses of collect-ing the revenue from customs shall not exceed the sum of one million five hundred and sixty thousand dollars per annum, together with such sums as under the law, are paid into the Treasury for drayage, cartage, labor, and storage, be suspended until the close of the present session of Congress, unless Congress shall sooner act on the subject. The Committee then rose, and the House adjourned over till Monday.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1850.

SENATE. The question of the reception of the petition for a dissolution of the Union was again taken up, and a debate ensued, in which Messrs. Chase, Hale, Dayton, Cass, Webster, Davis, Butler, Cooper, Clemens, and Seward, took part.

The question was then put on the reception o the petition, and it was lost, Mesers Chase, Hale, and Seward, alone voting in the affirmative, and fifty-one Senators in the negative.

We shall present a view of this debate in ou

Mr. Chase. When I yielded the floor, or day, to the distinguished Senator from Texas, [Mr. Houston.] I was about to say, that the course which I proposed to take upon the question before us had a precedent in the action of the Legisla-ture of my own State. In both branches of that ture of my own State. In both branches of that
Legislature, Mr. President, have petitions on this
subject been presented. They have in both
branches been disposed of by reference.
In the House of Representatives, during the
last session, I think, a petition of this sort was
received, and was referred, and an elaborate and
able report, against acting upon the prayer of
the petitioners, was the result. At an earlier peried a similar petition was presented in the Senate

Mr. Clsy offered an amendment, that, his death having occurred in the vacation of Congress, and his burial having taken place some months ago, the honorable Senator from New Hampshire.

tion, both North and South, as one most happily adapted to the occ I think, sir, that the course thus indicated the right course. It is founded upon a correct apprehension of the nature of the right of petition, and the true duty of legislative bodies in respect to such petitions as that now before us.

I do not concur with those honorable Senators who have seen fit to disparage the the right of petition as a "poor right," " a right to beg " It is the inestimable right guarantied by the Constitution to the people of making known, in proper form, their wishes to the Legislature. It is called, i deed, in the Constitution, the right of "petator "Petition" is the word used. But what is means Not supplication, certainly : but the right of the people to express their views upon any subject of interest to them, and to ask such action as they desire. The word "petition" is used in the sense that belongs to it when used in judicial proeeedings. It describes an application in writing. It may be an application for that which is de-mandable as an absolute right, or that which the tribunal or body addressed may grant or deny at discretion, or that which cannot be granted at all want of power to grant or to act upon the subject of the application. But it is for the people, to whom the right of petition belongs, to determine for themselves upon what occasions they will exercise it; and when they have determined, and have exercised it, and their petitions are pre-sented here, or in any other legislative body, sented here, or in any other legislative body, they should be received. To refuse to receive them is, in my judgment, an infringement upon their right. When once received, they may be disposed of as seems fit, in any way consistent with a fair and respectful hearing. To stop short of this -- to refuse to receive a petition—to say to the petitioners, "you shall not be heard"—is an invasion of their constitutional privilege. Sir, we cannot abridge that privilege by law. It is not in the power of both branche of Congress combined to abridge that privilege by law; much less can we abridge it by mere

Nor, Mr. President, does it seem to me wise to denounce as madmen those who come here-no matter whether from the North or from the South - no matter whether their petitions be presented by the Senator from North Carolina or the Senator from New Hampshire - to ask for action preparatory to a dissolution of the Union. They are mistaken men, but, I hope, not mad. They ask for action which we have no constitutional power to take, and which we ought not to take if we had the power. They are mistaken if they think we have the power. They are mistaken if they think that the power, if we had it, should be exercised. They depict—the Southerners as well as the Northerners—and no doubt truly according to their respective ideas of them, the grievances which they desire to have redressed; but they have mistaken the remedy. It is not to be found in a dissolution of the Union. The etitioners from the North, who desire a dissoluion of the Union, desire that which, if accomplish ed, would in no degree advance their purposes. The petitioners or resolutionists from the South. who contemplate disunion, look to that which, if attsined, would overwhelm all their hopes in utter ruin.

I regret, Mr. President, that, upon the motion to receive the petition now presented, we are not to have the vote of the ho orable Senator from Illinois, [Mr. Douglas] He apprehends, clearly enough, the line of discrimination established The question of reception was made upon the petition presented a day or two since by the Senator from North Carolina, [Mr. Mangum.] That petition, like this, looked towards a dissolution of the Union; yet the Senate decided to receive it almost unanimously. There were but two of property, estimated at California prices. votes against reception. One of these votes was given by the honorable Senator from Illinois in conformity with the usage to which he adheres, of denying reception to all petitions on this subject or touching in any way the great question of Slavery, whether they come from the North or the South. But after the honorable Senator saw, as he did see, that the usage to which he adhered was to be disregarded, and that, instead of it, there was to be a mere invidious sectional discrimination in respect to the reception of petitions, I did hope that he would be inclined to give to petitions from the North the same benefit of hearing which the Senate, by a vote so nearly unanimous, accorded to petitions from the South.

I regret, also, that we are not to have the vote of the Senator from Pennsylvania, [Mr. Stursees in this, which comes from citizens of his own the applause which his discrimination has drawn from honorable Senators on the Whig side of the Chamber, and particularly from the Senator from

Georgia, [Mr. Dawsen ]
The Senator from Massachusetts, [Mr. Davis, too, avows his purpose to vote against the recep-tion of this petition, although he voted for the retion and his commender. While the Senator from Georgia [Mr. Dawson] bestows the meed of approbation upon the Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. Storgeon, the Senator from Mississippi Mr. Foote baptizes with his applause the Senator from Massachusetts.
I have already said that I have no objection to

receiving this petition, and laying it on the table, as was done with the one from North Carolina. I am quite willing that both petitions should be referred to a committee, with such instructions as the Senate may see fit to give. But I protest against discrimination. Let every respect tition presented here, no matter from what quar ter it comes, meet with the reception due to the representations of the people addressed to their representatives. Let them be received. If the Senate entertains, in regard to the objects for which they pray, opinions so unanimous, so fixed, and so unalterable that reference would be use-less, let them be laid upon the table; or if it be thought desirable, for the sake of satisfying the petitioners and the country, to answer the petition by a statement of reasons why its prayer cannot or should not be granted, let it be rafe

In most things, Mr President, it will give me pleasure to follow the example of gentlemen from whom I am now compelled to differ. But in this matter I think it safer and better to follow the example which has been set before me by the Legis-ture of my State. That example is in favor of receiving this petition, and denying its prayer. With the people of Ohio the right of petition is sacred, and sacred also is the union of the States. I shall vote, therefore, for the reception of this petition; and I shall, also, on every occasion, by my vote and by my action, prove that I am, as Ohio is, for the Union and against dissolution.

Mr. Berrien then addressed the Senate on the esolutions of Mr. Clay, taking occasion to urge the claims of the South. Without closing, he gave way for a motion to go into Executive ses

The House was occupied with action upon the oint resolutions in relation to limiting the expenses of collecting the revenue. The amendments adopted in Committee of the Whole were rejected.

Mr. Preston King then moved to reconside the vote by which the main question had been ordered, and pending the motion, the House adjourned.

LATE FROM CALIFORNIA. ARRIVAL OF COL. FREMONT AND DR. GWIN, SENATORS ELECT.

The steamship Empire City, Capt J. D. Wilson, arrived at her wharf last night, about 12 o'clock. She left Chagres on Saturday, the 26th the 29th, at 3 o'clock, and left there the following day, at 3 o'clock. The following is a list of the officers elected

under the State Constitution : Governor-Peter H. Burnett. Lieutenant Governor-John McDougal. United States Senators-John C. Fremont and William M. Gwin Representatives to Congress-Geo. W. Wrigh nd Edward Gilbert. Secretary of State-William Van Voorhies.

Treasurer-Richard Roman. Comptroller-J. S. Houston Attorney General-Ed. J. C. Kewen. Surveyor General-Charles J. Whiting. Chief Justice—S. C. Hastings.
Associate Justices—H. A. Lyon and Nathaniel

The new Legislature met at the Capital,

Bennett

The new Legislature met at the Capital, at San Jose, on the 15th instant.

Almost every successful candidate was a Democrat, and it is estimated that at least three-fourths of the whole American population in California is Democratic. Of the fifty-four members of the Legislature, forty-seven are Democrats. In consequence of the election of Bennett, one of the Senators, as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Assemblymen, to the office of Secretary of State, a new election was ordered for the 8th ultimo. David P. Broderick, of New York, was the prominent and doubtless the successful candidate for

the vacant Senatorship.

Mr. Gilbert, the editor of the Alta California who is now on his way to Washington, as one of the new Representatives to Congress, sent to his paper, from San Jose, the following, as the official canvass of the State. The total vote for Governor, being the largest single vote cast, amounts to

14,313. The whole number of votes given at the polls in the State, was, therefore, fully 15,000. The Empire City brings most of the passengers and freight of the Oregon, which left San Francisco on the 1st of January and arrived at Pana ma on the 20th, in 18 days. Among the passen-gers of the Oregon were Colonel John C. Fremont and Dr. William M. Gwin, the Senators elect from California; G. W. Wright and Edward Gil hert, the members elect to Congress; the Hon. T Butler King; E. H. Harrison, Esq., late Collector of the port of San Francisco, Colonel Allen, the general mail agent of the United States in California, and many other notabilities-all of whom with the exception of Messrs. Fremont and Gwin have arrived in the Empire City. Mr. Fremon was detained at the Isthmus in consequence of the dangerous illness of Mrs. Fremont, on whom the fatigues of her journey had aggravated the dangers incident to her approaching confinement. It was doubtful whether she would be able to leave the Isthmus in the Falcon or the Cherokee, both of which vessels arrived at Chagres the day the

Dr. Gwin was to sail in the Falcon, that he might visit his family in Mississippi before em-barking for Washington. [He has arrived here.—

Ed. Era.] Colonel Allen visits the United States in part to report upon the imperfections of the mail sys-tem of California, and to supply the Department directly with such information as will enable them to perfect the system for the interior, which

is now entirely inefficient and unprofitable. Mr. Wright, the member of Congress elect from California, is a native of Nantucket. went to California about a year ago, whence he is returned to Congress by a constituency composed of a larger number of Nantucket people than had voted for Mr. Grinnell, the present member of Congress from the Nantucket District. Mr. Wright is about thirty years of age, and, with his brothers, is largely interested in the prosperity of California

Mr. Gilbert, his colleague, was formerly a printer in the Albany Argus office. He went out to California in the New York Regiment, under Colonel J. D. Stevenson; and when it disbanded he started the Alta California newspaper; and by the faithful and prudent management of that journal, has acquired for it the reputation of being the organ of the Democratic party in California, and has made it already one of the most val-uable newspaper properties in the United States. Mr. Gilbert is only about thirty years of age. Brigadier General Riley has issued a general

order, recognising the supremacy of a State Government under the new Constitution, and relinquishing all the civil power which he had previously exercised. Some two hundred of the passengers of the Empire City bring specimens of gold from California. varying in amounts from three to thirty thou-sand dollars each, which they have arranged according to their tastes, in ways to illustrate the peculiar mineral resources of the new Territory,

and the modes in which they are thus far developed; and which will dispel any doubts about the inestimable wealth of the Californias waith may lurk in the minds of the most skeptical. The Empire Cuy brings over 2,000,000 of dollars in gold dust, of which \$1,200,000 is on freight There are about one million of dollars in gold in the passengers' hands, making, in the aggregate, about \$2,200,000, which is more than twice as much gold as ever was carried before to the

city of New York in any one bottom A disastrous fire occurred at San Francisco, on the morning of the 24th, originating in Denni son's Exchange. It raged till 12 o'clock, and resulted in the destruction of about \$1,000,000 worth

## A CARD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Thursday, February 7, 1850.

DR. BAILEY: You have done me great injustice in your editorial in the National Era of to-day though doubtless unintentionally. You say that I "voted with the Slavery Extensionists to lay the principles of the Declaration of Independence upon the table." But you neglect to inform your readers that I voted to sustain Mr. Root's practical resolution, instructing the Committee on Territories to report Territorial bills excluding slavery When Mr Giddings's resolution was introduced, being immediately after Mr. Root's had been voted down, it was readily anticipated that geon I am sorry he could not see in the petition been voted down, it was readily anticipated that from North Carolina, for the reception of which a similar fate awaited the former. I voted therefore with the majority to lay Mr. G.'s resolution on the table, mainly for the purpose of reserving to myself the right to move, the next day, a reconsideration of the vote. Accordingly, the next morning endeavored, as is well known to many members and the Speaker, to obtain the floor for that purpose,

and was prepared to offer the following additional resolution as an amendment:

Resolved, 'That the Committee on Territories be instructed to report a bill or bills for the Gov-ernment of the territory obtained by treaty with Mexico, California excepted, recognising and se

curing the rights aforesaid. But, as the Journal will show, the floor was given to a member from Virginia, (by previous arrangement between himself and the Speaker.) to permit him to announce the death of his prede-cessor; and, as is usual in such cases, the House immediately adjourned. I therefore wait some other opportunity to ask of the House renewed action on the matters involved in the resolutions, if such action is not asked by older members.

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however, examined them sofficiently to justiff me. I have, however, examined them sofficiently to justiff me in saying that they are compiled with care, and are highly n teresting and useful Family Books pure in their moral tendency, and replete with valuable information. They are good tooks, and worthy of a place in our District School Libraries.

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Superintendent of Common Schools.

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Recommendation of Hon Robert H. Pruon, Gabriel P. Di-soway, James D. Bulton, James W. Beekman and Alonto Johnson, Committee on Colleges, Academies, and Common S hools. NEW YORK LEGISLATURE, April 5, 1849. We have examined the PICTORIAL WORKS\* edited and published by Mr. Robert Sears, 125 Nassau street. New York, prepared for DISTRICT SCHOOL LIBRARIES, and are of the opinion that they deserve a place in these institutions, designed as they are for the diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

stitutions, designed as they are for the Bulleton of Decide Knowledge.

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SHORT ARTICLES.

Negro-English Bible. Southey's Visit to America. Jew h Scripture MSS. Curiosities of Science. WASHINGTON, December 27, 4845 Of all the Periodical Journals devoted to literature and science, which abound in Europe and in this country, this has appeared to me to be the most useful. It contains indeed the exposition only of the current literature of the English language; but this, by its lumman extent and comprehension, includes a portraiture of the human mind in the utmost expansion of the present age.

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